

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44*bis*)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P268E.WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/US2007/023568	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07 November 2007 (07.11.2007)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 09 November 2006 (09.11.2006)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant IGT		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 *bis*.1(a).
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44*bis*.3(c) and 93*bis*.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44*bis* .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Date of issuance of this report 12 May 2009 (12.05.2009)
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2007/023568

International filing date (day/month/year)
07.11.2007

Priority date (day/month/year)
09.11.2006

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. G07F17/32
ADD. A63F7/24

Applicant
IGT

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2007/023568

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2007/023568

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-20</u>
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-20</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-20</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 Inventive Step

The present set of claims relate to several gaming machines for playing a game of chance, and methods for coordinating the display of a lighting pattern on one or more networked gaming machines.

It is noted that gaming machines operated in a network, comprising processors and one or more displays, were notoriously known in the art on the priority date of the present application (09.11.2006). No written evidence will be provided in support of that statement.

The purpose of claims 1 - 20 is the entertainment of the customer or player. This is not a technical purpose. For this reason, several displaying configurations (and audio configurations; once claimed) are mere design options which are presented to the person skilled in the art as a requirement specification with the order to implement this specification. The light patterns to be displayed, too, merely have a cognitive effect on the user or player. Again, these are the non-technical constraints to be met by the person skilled in the art, who would implement these without exercising any inventive skill.

By way of example, "providing a personalised presentation of game data" is still the presentation of non-technical data. Having regard to the description in this respect, there seems to be no further information how this presentation is personalised, leaving the person skilled in the art to his or her own devices when carrying out the invention.

When turning to the specification of the present application it is noted that there are several features there which do have technical character. However, these features are not disclosed in sufficient detail to be acceptable as being the innovation in the present case, because the disclosure as a whole does not enable the skilled person to carry out the invention. It is therefore assumed that the innovation must lie

elsewhere. In the terms of patent law: it is held that the skilled person is aware of these features which then cannot contribute to an inventive step, if claimed.

2 The Description

The specification goes into some detail on the comparison between standard PCS and gaming machines. While this is accepted, the differences come to some extent from the legal requirements for operating casinos or gaming halls. The differences are therefore the skilled man's response to a legal (i.e. non-technical) constraint, again depriving the relevant feature of the ability to contribute to inventiveness.

3 Height Adjustable Button Panel

It is noted that the idea of having a height adjustable button panel as is disclosed in e.g. figures 9-13 is not found in the prior art documents as cited. If a new set of claim were to be based on this, the matter might be found to meet the requirements of Article 33 PCT.

When turning to the description of fig. 10, the invention may (once claimed) relate to the automatic adjustment of the button panel when the height of the chair is changed (by exchanging the chair). It is noted that this concept is known from fig. 2 of D3, albeit the button panel is merely the rear view mirrors in D3. The Applicant is invited to bear this in mind if and when drafting any amendments.